

Amendments to the Specification:

Please make the following amendments to the specification. Material to be inserted in replacement paragraphs or sections is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 56, line 22, which appears immediately after the title **Synthesis of intermediates for asymmetrical squaraines** in Example 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The syntheses of these intermediates are described in A. L. Tatarets et al., **Dyes & Pig. Tetrahedron**, (in press), Terpetschnig et al., Dyes & Pig. **21**, 227,1993 and in PCT application PCT/US03/10995 filed April 10th 2003. The mono-substituted squaraine **18** is reacted with one equivalent of the CH-acidic compound (e.g. barbituric acid, 2-nitro-ethylacetate and other similar compounds) in EtOH in presence of triethylamine to yield squaraine-ring substituted derivatives: